



The President's Column

By Julie Myers, 2011-2012 Renner PTA President

Welcome to another great year at Renner Middle School. I hope everyone had a successful start to the new school year. It was fun to see so many returning faces at registration and exciting to welcome our new students and their families. Renner is a wonderful school full of dedicated and caring teachers and staff.

Thank you to everyone who volunteered time this summer to work at registration. It isn't easy to start donating time before school has even begun. We couldn't have registered hundreds of families without you. A special thank you to **Susie Learmont** who was responsible for planning, organizing and running registration. Susie spent countless hours over the summer making sure that we were able to get our students registered. Thanks also to **Darcey Carter, Jeanne Koepke and Kim Brown** who handled cashiers, spirit wear and school supplies, respectively. A very special thank you to **Victoria Gobeli and Pam Spooner** who were instrumental in getting our new online registration site up and running. If your student needs additional school supplies or wants to purchase spirit wear, these are available at the school store, which is open Monday through Friday during lunch. You can send cash or a check payable to the Renner PTA with your student. If you are figuring out the cost beforehand, please don't forget to add sales tax!

Thank you also to **Lori Baum and Pam Spooner**. They worked both days at registration, collecting our student directory information and encouraging families to join the PTA, and to **Sherie Hammett** for selling so many ads in our directory. Thank you to all the families who joined the PTA. Your membership supports both the State and National PTA, who are advocates for all children, as well as the Renner PTA which continues to provide student and parent programs, funds for teacher grants, encourage participation in the arts, promote the joy of reading, foster school spirit and provide support to the Renner teachers, staff and students. If you have not yet joined the PTA, you can still do so by contacting Lori Baum at membership@rennerpta.org. We hope you will join the Renner PTA and show your support for our school; and don't forget, your membership entitles you to a copy of the student directory due out later this fall. Watch for details in the Mustang Messenger sent out by e-mail on Fridays for times the directory will be available to be picked up.

The problems in this unit focus on adding, subtracting, multiplying, and dividing fractions. There are several real-life applications of these concepts, including cooking with recipes and dividing plots of land. Students should be bringing their weekly practice sheets home on Thursdays to complete if not finished in class. The practice sheets are an important tool in helping students to review and maintain knowledge and skills previously taught! Be sure to check your student's agenda to see what we're doing each day in class as well as any homework they need to complete.

science

Welcome to sixth grade science!

During the school year, your child will explore the human body, ocean ecosystems, natural resources, and relationships of objects in space.

We start our studies on human body systems. Students will investigate the structures & functions of the digestive, respiratory and circulatory systems and engage in many hands-on lab experiences.

We expect all students to keep a science spiral, 5-subject notebook this year. It will be a record of their class activities, labs, and a perfect study guide at home.

We look forward to an exciting year in sixth grade science!

social studies

In Social Studies, our journey through world history starts out in the Middle East. Students are busy learning about ancient civilizations in the Fertile Crescent, as well as aspects of culture from the Middle East. In this unit students will learn what those characteristics are, and which are more powerful in defining this part of the world as a region. The students will finish the unit by studying that region's political boundaries, as well as some current issues involving cultural relationships in the Middle East. It is a great time to watch some world news and discuss pertinent events.



language arts

The 6th grade language arts program is off to a great start. This six-week study will focus on both the reading and writing of personal narratives. Reading biographies and autobiographies can help students better grasp and understand the lives and conflicts of others. Throughout this unit students will read personal narratives and write personal anecdotes. Instruction will be delivered in a student-centered, multi-tasked, hands-on environment through PowerPoint presentations, multiple writing opportunities, and a variety of reading experiences. The PACE language arts students will also be reading and writing narratives. In addition, the students will be introduced to the six basic elements of the Humanities.

The curriculum requires silent sustained reading (SSR) on most days, so the students will be required to bring something to read each day. Each team has a different library day, so they may check out books or bring them from home. **The 6th grade also offers students the chance to earn a double daily 100% each week by turning in a log sheet on Tues.** They should read for 100 minutes, write a short summary, and have it signed by an adult.

math

Our 6th grade math students started out the year with the book "Shapes and Designs", in which students explore important properties of polygons. Our second unit is "Bits and Pieces II". This unit is a continuation of the first book introduced in fifth grade.



The President's Column, continued

Before school began, the Renner PTA hosted a luncheon to welcome the Renner Teachers and Staff back to school. It is so nice to let them know how much we appreciate all they do for our children. Thanks to **Sheryl Pidgeon, Julie Kabel** and their committee for this wonderful luncheon.

It was great to have so many parents attend the PTA Welcome Back Coffee on the first day of school. Thank you to **Sam Clement and Masae Rinkliff** for preparing our coffee and snacks. Parents heard from our principal, Mr. McLaughlin, about ways to make the middle school years very successful. We also heard from PISD School Board President, Tammy Richards.

The Renner PTA offers many opportunities to be involved. If you haven't turned in a volunteer form, please contact Susie Learmont at volunteers@rennerpta.org or pick one up in the front office.

I would like to extend one last thank you to Mr. McLaughlin and all the Renner Staff for a great start this year. We are so fortunate to have a wonderful team who are passionate about preparing middle school students for the future. You will have an opportunity to ask questions about the school at the next principal's coffee on **Thursday, October 6th** at 9:30 a.m.

The PTA is looking forward to a great year. You can keep up to date on school and PTA happenings by visiting our website at www.rennerpta.org. There is also an activity line at Renner that is updated every Sunday night for the upcoming week. All activities are included. Just call the Renner main number 469-752-5800, then push 9. If you have any questions or suggestions for the PTA please feel free to contact me at president@rennerpta.org or 972-672-4327.

